

STARS AND STRIPES

Wednesday, April 23, 2003

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

Oil flows again in southern Iraq

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Oil from Iraq's southern fields began flowing through pipelines Wednesday for the first time since the war, and power at last was restored to parts of Baghdad. In the holy city of Karbala, thousands of Shiite Muslims demonstrated against the United States.

An accident took the lives of three Marines near the southern city of Kut. They were trying out a rocket-propelled grenade launcher when it malfunctioned on Tuesday, and seven other Marines were wounded, U.S. Central Command said.

The southern oil fields had been among the first installations secured when U.S. and British forces launched the ground war March 20. Coalition forces, aided by Iraqi oil workers, Wednesday fired up a gas-oil separation plant that sent oil to a pumping station and storage tank outside the southern city of Basra.

"Our focus in restoring the oil is to give the biggest benefit to the Iraqi people," said Brig. Gen. Robert Crear, the top U.S. official charged with getting Iraq's oil production up and running.

Many Iraqis have complained bitterly, and frequently, about U.S. forces rushing to secure oil fields and the capital's oil ministry, leaving other ministries, universities, museums, hospitals and businesses to be looted and burned. U.S. officials have acknowledged they were surprised by the rampage, and said troops were too occupied by combat to intervene when they first reached Baghdad.

Crear said the southern Rumaila oil field, one of Iraq's largest, could be producing up to 1.1 million barrels a day in six to 15 weeks.

Northern oil fields around Kirkuk remain out of production; when they are reopened, Crear said Iraq could move toward its prewar production of 2.8 million barrels a day, and provide crucial revenue for reconstruction.

The first group of U.N. international staff returned to northern Iraq since the war started when a half-dozen workers crossed the border from Turkey on Wednesday. They had waited more than a week for clearance to fly in.

In Egypt, President Hosni Mubarak urged the United States and Britain to withdraw their forces from Iraq as soon as possible. He urged a "concerted international effort" to help form legitimate government chosen by Iraqis.

In the holy cities of Karbala and Najaf, Wednesday was the climax of an emotional pilgrimage — peaceful so far — that has drawn an estimated 1 million Shiites. With Saddam Hussein's regime toppled, it was the first time since the 1970s that Iraq's Shiite majority could participate freely in the march mourning the martyred grandson of the Prophet Muhammad.

Thousands of the pilgrims took part in an anti-American demonstration Wednesday. Among the banners were some that read, "No to America, no to Israel, yes to Islam."

American investigators were trying to figure out how hundreds of millions of U.S. dollars — possibly genuine, perhaps counterfeit — ended up in Iraq despite economic sanctions in place since 1990.



KEVIN FRAYER/AP

Khalid Khalf is reflected in a pool of crude oil that has leaked from a pipe at a pumping station near the Babagurgur oil fields in Kirkuk, Iraq, on Wednesday. Workers at the station, which controls the pipeline to Turkey, are trying to get the facility working. Oilfields in Basra began operating on Wednesday.

The latest stash — \$112 million — was found by Army civil affairs soldiers inside seven dog kennels in a wealthy neighborhood where top regime officials once lived, the Los Angeles Times reported Wednesday. The Times and the New York Post said four soldiers were under investigation in the alleged theft of about \$900,000 of a huge stash of dollars found earlier in the same neighborhood.

Some of the cash has been stumbled upon almost by accident, while the intensive nationwide search by U.S. teams for banned weapons of mass destruction has yet to turn up conclusive evidence of chemical or biological weapons.

Six Iraqi scientists working at Baghdad research institutions told The Associated Press they were ordered to destroy some bacteria and equipment and hide more in their homes before visits from U.N. weapons inspectors in the months leading up to the war.

All the scientists said they were involved in civilian research projects and all said they knew of no programs for weapons of mass destruction. It was not clear why their materials, ostensibly for nonmilitary research, were ordered destroyed.

But their accounts indicate Saddam's regime may have had advance knowledge of at least some of the inspectors' visits, as the United States suspected, and that the regime was concerned about any material that could raise the suspicion of U.N. experts.

In Baghdad, power was restored to about one-fifth of the city for the first time in three weeks.

Baghdad residents and the U.S. military have listed power as the capital's key need — to deter looting and help get a municipal administration back in operation.

In Europe, many of an estimated 135,000 Iraqi refugees should return home once their country is rebuilt, said Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis, whose country holds the European Union's rotating presidency.

"When there is a normalization, they should go back," Simitis said in Copenhagen, Denmark. "There is no reason for political and economic refugees to stay."

Jay Garner, the retired U.S. general overseeing the postwar reconstruction, arrived Wednesday in Irbil, the administrative capital of Iraq's Kurdish region.

It was Garner's second day in the region, where he has extensive contacts stemming from his direction of a U.S. military mission to protect Kurds who fled their homes when Saddam put down an uprising following the 1991 Gulf War.

Asked at a news conference how soon life in Iraq could return to a semblance of normalcy, Garner said "Everything has to be done in a secure environment. ... Security is getting better every day."

"In a very short order, you'll see a change in the attitudes and the will of the people themselves," he added.

British Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon toured the southern port city of Umm Qasr — becoming the highest-ranking British or U.S. politician to visit Iraq since the war. He shook hands with port workers and petted Buster a sniffer dog who has discovered several arms and drugs caches.

Hoon said U.S. and British forces had not given up looking for Saddam, and speculated that the deposed leader was still in Iraq.

"In the end, we don't know, but in my best judgment, he is," Hoon said.

U.S. wary of makeup of new Iraq

By GLENN KESSLER

AND DANA PRIEST

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — As Iraqi Shiite demands for a dominant role in Iraq's future mount, Bush administration officials say they underestimated the Shiites' organizational strength and are unprepared to prevent the rise of an anti-American, Islamic fundamentalist government in the country.

The burst of Shiite power — as demonstrated by the hundreds of thousands who made a long-banned pilgrimage to the holy city of Karbala this week — has U.S. officials looking for allies in the struggle to fill the power vacuum left by the downfall of Saddam Hussein.

As the administration plotted to overthrow Saddam's government, U.S. officials said this week, it failed to fully appreciate the force of Shiite aspirations and is now concerned that those sentiments could coalesce into a fundamentalist government. Some administration officials were dazzled by Ahmed Chalabi, the prominent Iraqi exile who is a Shiite and an advocate of a secular democracy. Others were more focused on the overriding goal of defeating Saddam and paid little attention to the dynamics of religion and politics in the region.

"It is a complex equation, and the U.S. government is ill-equipped to figure out how this is going to shake out," a State Department official said. "I don't think anyone took a step backward and asked, what are we looking for? The focus was on the overthrow of Saddam Hussein."

Complicating matters is that the United States has virtually no diplomatic relationship with Iran, leaving U.S. officials in the dark about the goals and intentions of the government in Tehran. The Iranian government is the patron of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, the leading Iraqi Shiite group.

Since the Iranian revolution in 1979, a major strategic goal of the United States has been to contain radical Shiite fundamentalism. In the 1980s, the United States backed Saddam as a bulwark against Iran.

But by this year, the drive to topple Saddam — who had suppressed Iraq's Shiite majority for decades — loomed as a much more important objective for the administration.

U.S. intelligence reports reaching top officials throughout the government this week said the Shiites appear to be much more organized than was originally thought. On Monday, one meeting of generals and admirals at the Pentagon evolved into a spontaneous teach-in on Iraq's Shiites and the U.S. strategy for containing Islamic fundamentalism in Iraq.

The administration hopes the U.S.-led war in Iraq will lead to a crescent of democracies in Iraq, Iran, Syria, Lebanon, the Israeli-occupied territories and Saudi Arabia. But it could just as easily spark a renewed fervor for Islamic rule in the same crescent, officials said.

"This is a 25-year-project," one three-star general officer said. "Everyone agreed it was a high risk, and the outcome was not at all clear."

Latest developments

■ Crude oil from Iraq's southern fields began flowing again through pipelines, the first time since the start of the war, U.S. officials said.

■ Thousands of Shiite Muslims held a political protest in Karbala, railing at the United States while others began final prayers of a fervent religious pilgrimage.

■ The Associated Press learned that six Iraqi scientists working at Baghdad research institutions were ordered to destroy some bacteria and equipment and hide more in their homes before visits from U.N. weapons inspectors in the months leading up to the war.

■ Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak urged the United States and Britain to withdraw from Iraq as soon as possible and start building a legitimate government there.

■ Security Council members who opposed the war in Iraq — including France, Russia and Germany — are insisting that U.N. inspectors be allowed to join a weapons hunt now being conducted exclusively by the United States. The Bush administration says it will search for them on its own.

■ British Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon toured the port city of Umm Qasr, becoming the first senior coalition politician to visit Iraq.

■ Iraqis digging for loved ones at Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison found two bodies in shallow graves.

■ Jay Garner, the retired U.S. general overseeing reconstruction of Iraq, arrived in Irbil, the administrative capital of the Kurdish region.

■ U.S. soldiers found \$112 million in U.S. currency inside seven dog kennels in a wealthy Baghdad neighborhood where top Baath Party and Republican Guard officials once lived.

■ More than 80 percent of Baghdad still lacks power, and doctors have reported the first suspected cases of cholera and typhoid, blamed on the lack of clean running water.

From The Associated Press

3 Marines killed in launcher accident

DOHA, Qatar — Three Marines were killed and seven injured in an accident in Iraq while they were handling a rocket-propelled grenade launcher, U.S. Central Command said.

The Marines with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force were firing the RPG — one of the more common weapons used by paramilitary, Fedayeen and other groups that have threatened U.S. and British forces — to familiarize themselves with it.

The launcher malfunctioned, U.S. officials said.

The accident occurred Tuesday evening in a remote area near the southern Iraqi city of Kut, officials said.

The names of the Marines were being withheld until their next of kin could be notified. The accident was under investigation.

Prior to these deaths, 128 U.S. troops have been killed in the war, the Pentagon said.

1st Lt. missing from hospital

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — The Army is investigating the disappearance Monday of an Army lieutenant from the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

1st Lt. Adam Tucker Bouchard was believed to be wearing blue hospital clothing at the time he left the hospital, but may have obtained different clothing and may be traveling on foot, according to a press release from the 86th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office.

Bouchard, 25, is 5 feet, 10 inches tall and weighs 150 pounds. He has short brown hair and blue eyes.

Bouchard was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky., and was deployed to Iraq with his unit before being transported to Landstuhl.

Darlene Cowsett, chief of media for the 86th Airlift Wing's public affairs office, said Bouchard was being hospitalized for psychiatric treatment.

She would not elaborate on whether he was being incarcerated at the hospital, why it was thought that Bouchard may have changed his clothes, if he was considered dangerous or how he was discovered missing.

Anyone who has information about Bouchard's whereabouts is asked to contact the German Polizei or military law enforcement agencies.

At USAREUR Office of the Provost Marshal, anyone with information may contact Lt. Col. Kathleen Doran at DSN 381-7583, or e-mail at: Deborah.Drain@hq.202mpg.army.mil

Pentagon IDs remains of AF officer

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon said Wednesday it identified the remains of the second of two Air Force officers killed when their F-15E Strike Eagle aircraft went down in Iraq on April 7.

That leaves only one U.S. servicemember still listed as missing from the war — Army Sgt. Edward J. Anguiano, 24, of Brownsville, Texas, missing since his convoy was ambushed March 23 in Iraq.

The Pentagon said Maj. William R. Watkins III of Danville, Va., was the weapons system officer on the F-15E when it went down during a combat mission near Tikrit, north of Baghdad. The pilot was Capt. Eric B. Das, of Amarillo, Texas. His remains were identified last week.

Watkins, 37, was assigned to the 333rd Fighter Squadron based at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C.

The Pentagon has not said whether the F-15E was shot down or was lost under other circumstances.

From staff and wire reports

News tracker: What's new with old news

Nation

Fla. elections chief to run again: Broward County's embattled elections supervisor said she will seek re-election, despite problems with a September primary and a state investigation into overspending.

Miriam Oliphant, a Democrat who won a four-year term in 2000, announced her re-election bid Tuesday, after learning of her first challenger.

"Do you think I would have gone through all I have in the last months — finding all the problems and correcting them — if I wasn't running? I'm absolutely running again," said Oliphant, 48.

Air tanker crash investigation: An air tanker that erupted in flames and plunged to the ground fighting a Colorado forest fire last year went down because of a crack that started at a half-inch rivet on its left wing and spread, according to a Forest Service investigation.

It was almost identical to the failure that caused the crash of another tanker fighting a fire in California a month earlier, killing three, said Dan Hawkins, president of Hawkins & Powers Aviation Inc. of Greysbull, Wyo., which owned both planes.

The report obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press identified the cause of the Consolidated Volte PB4Y-2 crash as fatigue and failure of the left wing's forward spar, a unit that helps hold the wing to the fuselage.

Death row reprieve: A federal appeals court on Wednesday halted the execution of a twice-convicted killer who had been scheduled to die later in the day after his lawyers argued he is mentally retarded.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals put off the scheduled evening execution of Robert Charles Ladd, 46, to allow his lawyers to file an appeal in lower court raising the IQ issue.

Ladd himself has called that "a dead issue." **Gang rape trial:** A third defendant pleaded guilty Tuesday in the case of 18 young men accused of gang-raping a mentally disabled 13-year-old girl over two days.

Issac Cummings, 22, pleaded guilty to aggravated child molestation and statutory rape, prosecution spokeswoman Kathy Watkins said. He will serve 10 years in prison and 10 years on probation. Rape charges were dropped.

Two other defendants, 20-year-olds Jamon Aiken and Taurean Green, pleaded guilty Monday to the same charges and were sentenced to 12 years in prison and eight years of probation.

The latest plea came as jury selection began for the 15 remaining defendants.

Ambassador Bridge arrests: One of two men questioned by FBI agents for allegedly videotaping an international bridge and having firecrackers, shotgun shells and a police baton in their car says police targeted him because of his ethnicity.

Mohamed Elmathil, 26, and another man were arrested late Sunday near the Ambassador Bridge, the busiest U.S.-Canada border crossing.

He said three FBI agents interrogated him for three hours, asking him if he trained with al-Qaida or had been to Afghanistan.

"I tried to explain that I have been here since 1981," said Elmathil, a native of Yemen. "Of course, I was profiled."

Neither he nor the other man, identified only as having Yemeni parents, was charged with a crime, but police said the case remained under investigation. Elmathil said he got a ticket for having tinted windows on his car.

On Monday, police said the dynamite actually was two M80 firecrackers. Elmathil said they were left over from last July. He said the shotgun ammunition probably belonged to a friend who had borrowed his car. He said he carried the baton for protection but had never used it.

Authorities initially said the men were stopped for videotaping the bridge. But now police say they were pulled over because of the tinted rear windows on Elmathil's car.

Earthquake study: A federal study released Tuesday slightly reduced the chance that the San Francisco Bay area will be hit by a major earthquake in the next 30 years, but still put the probability at better than 50 percent.

The study, commissioned by the U.S. Geological Survey, set the probability of such a quake at 62 percent. The last time the survey was conducted, in 1999, the estimate was 70 percent. A major quake has a magnitude of 6.7 or greater.

The Bay Area's last major earthquake, with a magnitude of 6.9, occurred in 1989. Centered 50 miles south of San Francisco, the quake killed 40 people and caused about \$6 billion in structural damage.

The study also said the region has just a 10

percent chance of seeing an earthquake of magnitude 7.5 or greater.

The most significant seismic event in the Bay Area in the last century was the magnitude 7.9 San Francisco quake of 1906.

Business

American Airlines cuts cause ire: American Airlines pilots are threatening to join other unions in balking at wage and benefit cuts they already approved to keep the airline solvent.

Although the Allied Pilots Association said Tuesday it won't call for a new vote on the measure, a spokesman said union directors were considering telling their president, John Darrah, not to sign the ratification papers.

Two other unions, the Transport Workers Union and the Association of Professional Flight Attendants, have both called for another vote, increasing the possibility that the deal will be rejected.

World

Suspected Islamic militants on trial: Police officers testifying in the trial of two suspected Islamic militants accused of participating in a suicide attack that killed 11 French engineers described the bloody scene that greeted investigators after the bombing last May.

Inspector Muhammad Baber told the court damaged vehicles, human remains and victims' belongings were strewn outside a hotel after the blast.

The two suspects, Asif Zaheer and Bashir Ahmed, face charges of terrorism, murder and conspiracy and could be sentenced to death if convicted.

They have pleaded not guilty. The bombing on May 8, 2002, killed 14 people, including three Pakistanis and the French engineers, who were working on the construction of a submarine for the Pakistani navy.

3 more bodies found in Bangladesh: Rescue workers recovered three more bodies Wednesday after towing a sunken ferry to shore, raising the death toll from two river ferry accidents to 135.

Hundreds of people remain missing. The double-deck MV Mitai, which sank in the Buriganga River near Dhaka, was the larger of two ferries that went down Monday during a tropical storm.

Crews have recovered 130 bodies from the MV Mitai. Among the dead were 44 women and 25 children.

Bangladesh media reports said the vessel was carrying up to 400 passengers, but some managed to swim ashore.

Many bodies had been believed trapped inside the ferry's cabins, but only three were found when it was lifted from the river and towed to shore.

Rescuers were still trying to locate a smaller ferry that sank in the Meghna River, 50 miles northeast of Dhaka.

Nigerian elections: Olusegun Obasanjo won an overwhelming victory in Nigeria's presidential election, officials announced Tuesday, as opposition groups protested the balloting as rigged and threatened mass demonstrations.

Obasanjo won 62 percent of the more than 42 million votes cast in the weekend polling, election commission chairman Abel Guobadia said late Tuesday night. His leading rival, former junta leader Muhammadu Buhari, was far back with 32 percent. More than 2.5 million votes were declared invalid.

War on terrorism

Afghans battle suspected Taliban: Afghan soldiers battled suspected Taliban fighters Wednesday, trading mortar and rocket fire across the Afghan-Pakistan border, an Afghan commander said.

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Afghan authorities, who say Taliban forces are regrouping after being defeated in a U.S.-led war, have long said Taliban remnants have bases in Pakistan.

Youth terror suspects at Guantanamo: Three terror suspects 16 years and younger are being interrogated at the U.S. detention camp in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the military said Wednesday, setting off renewed outrage among rights advocates.

The teenagers are held in a "communal setting" separate from adult detainees' individual cells, but all were "captured as active combatants against U.S. forces" and are considered enemy combatants, said Lt. Col. Barry Johnson, chief spokesman for the mission.

From wire reports

News from around the war

GIs accused of stealing cash

Investigators from the Army's Criminal Investigation Division are questioning six American soldiers in Iraq about an undisclosed amount of missing cash, the Los Angeles Times reported Wednesday.

Chris Grey, a spokesman for the Army's Criminal Investigative Division Command at Fort Belvoir, Va., confirmed Wednesday that CID is looking into the alleged theft.

"We are investigating circumstances and allegations of wrongdoing involving an apparent theft of a portion of federal reserve notes [money] in a Baghdad police compound on 18 April," Grey said in a telephone interview.

The six soldiers, all from the 3rd Infantry Division, included four already under investigation for \$900,000 stolen and recovered Friday from millions in cash discovered in Baghdad, the Times reported.

Of that amount, \$600,000 was found hidden in a tree and \$300,000 was hidden inside a cooler on one of the trucks used to transport the \$656 million to Baghdad's airport Friday night.

Grey declined to say how much money might be involved, or to confirm media reports that four soldiers are under investigation.

The Army already had CID officials on the ground in Iraq; such soldiers are routinely deployed whenever forces are sent overseas, Grey said.

Once the CID has completed its investigation, the agency will turn over its findings to Army leaders whose soldiers are allegedly involved. Those leaders will make decisions about disciplinary actions, Grey said.

On Tuesday, The New York Post reported that four soldiers had been arrested in connection with the attempted theft. The Times reported Wednesday that the suspects have not been charged.

Despite orders by commanders to stop money hunts, Tuesday's discovery sent more soldiers strolling through the neighborhood, the article stated. And the number of soldiers increased after military police left.

GIs tests for bioterrorism in NYC

NEW YORK — A specially equipped National Guard unit has been testing many of the city's major buildings for biological agents such as anthrax nearly every day for the past month.

The 22-member team has visited dozens of sites on a list compiled by the New York Police Department, from hotels and tourist attractions to City Hall and the World Financial Center, officials said.

The soldiers test for biological agents like anthrax and smallpox, monitor for chemical and radiological contamination, and supplement open-air testing done by other government agencies.

"We're out there actively looking for any sort of contamination, whatever that may be," the unit's commander, Maj. Kaarlo J. Hietala, said Tuesday.

The team, based in upstate New York, was ordered to New York City when the war in Iraq began.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, the team has tested for contamination at the Grammys, U.S. Open tennis championships, baseball games and other major events, Hietala said.

The unit does preliminary analyses with a mobile laboratory before sending material and data to a government lab. One recent test involved taking a cotton swab sample from an air-filter system that serves a garage below the World Financial Center.

The soldiers also use small radiation detectors and other high-tech tools, including a computer program that can roughly predict the effects of a release of a biological, chemical or radiological agent using real-time weather information.

Marine parking ticket attention

PORTLAND, Maine — Reports of a Marine who got a late notice about a parking ticket while he was fighting in Iraq got the attention of officials in Los Angeles, where the ticket was issued.

The mayor's office and transportation department said they would look into Cpl. Brad Gaumont's case, but need more information.

The 23-year-old Marine, who wants to become a police officer, was stationed in Iraq when he received a notice saying he's being charged a late fee for failing to pay a parking ticket he received in Los Angeles shortly before he shipped out.

In a letter to his mother, Jerice Goulet of Saco, Gaumont said, "Mom, I'm in a kind of a bind here. Can you tell them I'll pay for the ticket when I get back to the U.S.?"

The Marine's stepfather, Michael Goulet, said his wife was unable to get any answers when she called Los Angeles to straighten out the matter.

"Jerice tried to get a hold of these people and it's funny ... you get, 'Press this, press that, press this, press that,' and you don't get anybody," said Goulet.

Angie Levine, a spokeswoman for Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn, said city officials are trying to get

the citation information from Goulet so they can take action, but the problem is Gaumont has the information in Iraq.

Levine said that Gaumont probably will only have to pay the original fine. She did not know how much the fine would be.

The mayor's office received e-mails from several people after published reports about the ticket first appeared Monday, said Khaim Morton of the mayor's office of constituent services.

Neal Pratt, a lawyer in Portland, has offered free legal services to Gaumont, saying the Marine is "trying to do everything right."

Family still awaiting word

For members of the Anguiano family, Wednesday is an anniversary they didn't want to commemorate.

It will mark exactly one month since Army Sgt. Edward John Anguiano, 24, of Brownsville went missing in Iraq after he and other soldiers were ambushed at Nasiriyah in southern Iraq.

It has been an agonizing wait for family members.

"There are times we don't sleep. There are times we don't want to eat. It's been a month," said Miguel Anguiano, the missing soldier's uncle, in a tone nearing disbelief.

Edward Anguiano, a mechanic with the 3rd Infantry Combat Support Battalion based in Fort Stewart, Ga., has been missing since his convoy was ambushed at Nasiriyah.

Military officials "called us today. We didn't know if he was missing by himself," said Rebecca Grazoria, 16, Edward Anguiano's younger sister.

Anguiano is one of only two missing U.S. servicemen. The other was a crew member from an F-15E missing since the jet went down in Iraq on April 7. Officials have not released his name.

Six Fort Bliss soldiers were captured in the ambush. All were rescued; the last five were freed Sunday after three weeks as prisoners of war.

Acknowledging the one-month anniversary, "just makes it even harder. I don't see nothing special about it," said Miguel Anguiano, 30, by telephone from his South Texas home.

"What it means is that we're tired of waiting this long. It's depressing because we want to know when he's going to come back," Grazoria said.

Family members got together for the Easter weekend, Miguel Anguiano said, but their thoughts never strayed from Edward Anguiano. San Juanita Anguiano, the missing soldier's mother, is "hanging in there. She's being strong."

"It wasn't really the same," Grazoria said. "We couldn't really celebrate it."

The military has told family members of their commitment to leave no man behind and their continuing search, but so far, have not located Edward Anguiano.

Family members watched last weekend's televised homecoming of seven POWs — five from Fort Bliss who were captured at Nasiriyah and two helicopter pilots from Fort Hood, near Killeen.

"It was tough because my brother wasn't one of them. But we're happy for them because (the other POWs) were coming home. We know what it must feel like for those families knowing that their sons and daughters are coming home," Grazoria said.

The family last saw Edward Anguiano in December. Since then, they had received letters.

The family has no plans to mark the anniversary and are taking solace in the support they are receiving from the community, and strangers in cities far away from the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

"Today...I went to the post office. There were letters from San Antonio and other cities from people saying they were praying for us," Grazoria said.

The comfort from those strangers has been overwhelming, and letters and packages sometimes include gifts. One package from a family in Macedon, N.Y., contained a blue pillow called a pillow of hope. With the pillow was a tag that read: "Hope sees the invisible, feels the intangible and achieves the impossible."

"I started to cry," Grazoria said.

TV news engineer charged

WASHINGTON — A television news engineer faces smuggling charges after attempting to bring into the United States 12 stolen Iraqi paintings, monetary bonds and other items, federal officials said Wednesday.

A criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Va., charges that Benjamin James Johnson, 27, tried to bring the paintings into this country last Thursday. They were contained in a large cardboard box that was examined by Customs agents at Dulles International Airport outside Washington.

An affidavit filed with the criminal complaint says that Johnson, who accompanied U.S. troops in Baghdad, gathered up the paintings at a palace that belonged to Uday Hussein, one of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's sons. The paintings depict Saddam and Uday.

Johnson, who initially told Customs officials he was given the paintings by Iraqi citizens, said he had planned to keep them "for decoration" and to provide one to his employer, the affidavit says. It is U.S. policy that all such items belong to the Iraqi people.

Johnson works as an engineer for the Fox cable news network.

Executives at Fox did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The case was one of several to be detailed later Wednesday by Customs officials, who have seized other Iraqi artworks, weapons and other materials people have tried to smuggle into this country.

Museums, businesses, government offices and homes were widely looted in Baghdad after the fall of Saddam's regime. Among the items stolen were thousands of artworks and other antiquities, some thousands of years old, from Iraq's vast collections of items from Assyrian, Mesopotamian, Sumerian and other cultures.

An examination of Johnson's luggage also turned up 40 Iraqi Monetary Bonds and a visitor's badge from the U.S. embassy in Kuwait. Johnson, who lives in Alexandria, Va., has not been arrested but is to appear before a federal magistrate next Tuesday.

Former Iraq POW returns home

LITHIA SPRINGS, Ga. — Former Iraq POW Ronald Young Jr. returned to his hometown Tuesday, getting a police escort to his parents' house on a street bedecked with yellow ribbons and lined with well-wishers.

"It's overwhelming," the 26-year-old Young said. "I've been kind of sheltered, so I didn't know to expect all this. It's ... wow! The Army helicopter flown by Young and fellow Chief Warrant Officer David S. Williams, 30, of Orlando, Fla., was forced down during heavy fighting in central Iraq.

After three weeks of captivity, the men were rescued April 13 with five soldiers from the Army's 507th Maintenance Company when Iraqi captors abandoned their posts ahead of advancing American troops.

On Tuesday, Young got to work on one of his top priorities — regaining some of the 20 pounds he lost in captivity. He and his family were treated by a local business to a dinner of T-bone steaks.

"The outpouring from the community is great," he said. "I'm just so happy they've been so nice to my family — giving them a shoulder to lean on."

All seven POWs returned to American soil Saturday night, landing at Fort Bliss, Texas, to a roaring homecoming with thousands of well-wishers and a sea of American flags.

Young and Williams then proceeded to Fort Hood, where they were reunited with their families. Both are part of the Fort Hood-based 1st Battalion of the 277th Aviation Regiment.

"When we met that night at the airport, and he was holding me, and me holding him, it was the most emotional experience of my life," said Young's mother, Kaye.

On Monday, military officials said the other five soldiers are on track for release from a medical center this week.

U.S. has chance of finding weapons

BERLIN — The chief U.N. weapons inspector said he believes U.S.-led forces have a better chance of finding weapons of mass destruction in Iraq than his team did, but he renewed an offer to help with the search, according to an interview published Wednesday.

"We found nothing suspicious, and the U.S. forces haven't either so far," Hans Blix told Stern magazine's online version. "But they have a great advantage: They can now interview people. And these people don't have to fear the secret police anymore. That considerably increases their chances of finding something."

Alluding to U.S. pressure to lift sanctions on Iraq, Blix pointed to a U.N. resolution that requires the inspectors to certify that Iraq no longer has weapons of mass destruction before sanctions can be scrapped.

"We cannot do that at this time," he said.

Blix renewed his skepticism about attempts by U.S. and other western intelligence agencies to show that Iraq had chemical and biological weapons, and he openly criticized the U.S. administration's approach to global politics.

"For the United States, the policy of containment appears to be a bygone era," he said. "And their decision has cost a lot of human lives."

But he also accused the defeated Iraqi regime of stalling for time while his inspectors worked in the country between November and mid-March.

Since victorious U.S. forces began their own search for chemical and biological arms in Iraq, Blix has said that resumed inspections under U.N. supervision would increase the credibility of their search.

From staff and wire reports

Gun glut may endanger peace in Iraq

BY ELLEN KNICKMEYER
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Gunshots heralded what the men in the New Baghdad market were selling Wednesday, among the oranges and the eggs — AK-47s, Beretta submachine guns and Browning 9mms, for as little as \$10.

Massive arms caches abandoned by Iraqi forces and cleaned out by scavengers have put automatic weapons in the hands of anyone who covets one, endangering any return to peace and stability in Iraq.

Even widows and other peaceful Iraqis are buying AK-47s for self-defense.

"Every Iraqi I'd estimate now has two or three guns. And we will use these guns against Britons and Americans, if they do not go out of Iraq," car mechanic Dhiab Hamad Khaleifa said Wednesday.

He spoke along a dusty roadside at a Kalashnikov market outside Baghdad — an impromptu affair of pickup trucks and men waving assault rifles. Potential customers blasted rounds into the air to test the wares.

The Iraqi military, once the Mideast's largest, simply abandoned its arsenal when officers and other soldiers slipped away ahead of U.S. forces. Looters were quick to appropriate mortars, 50-caliber machine guns, rocket-propelled grenades and guns from abandoned bunkers, trenches and depots.

Policing all those weapons or trying to round them up through amnesty programs could be difficult.

When the Marines entered Baghdad this month, Kalashnikov rifles literally littered the roadsides.

Marines found schools and hospitals stacked to their ceilings with mortar rounds and grenades. Officials of Saddam Hussein's regime had placed the caches in civilian sites to fend off American attacks.

Stockpiles left in populated areas often proved too big for U.S. forces to blow up safely. In many cases, stretched-thin U.S. forces had to leave them.

With so many arms on the market, homeowners say they have no choice but to buy weapons. Nightly, Baghdad resounds with duets of AK-47s — families, letting off bursts of automatic weapons to let would-be robbers know they, too, are armed. Widows and elderly retirees privately admit to toting the weapons.

"It's dangerous," said Mos Daab Abdul-Wohab, son of an imam at a large northwest Baghdad mosque. He shakes his head at the thought of a city full of stirred-up young men and guns.

Gen.: Fighting in Iraq isn't over

BY SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — It's misleading to say the fighting in Iraq has all but ceased, as U.S. forces engaged as late as Tuesday with enemy forces in the Tikrit region, warned Army Lt. Gen. David McKeirnan, the Coalition Forces Land Component commander.

McKeirnan has divided the resistance that ground forces continue to encounter into three categories — pockets of the former regime's military, paramilitary forces primarily made up of non-Iraqi fighters and suicide bombers, McKeirnan said Wednesday during the first live news teleconference broadcast out of Baghdad into the Pentagon.

The latter two were the least expected types of residence war planners had considered, however, paramilitary and "death squads," as they are called by defense officials, did not appear out of the clear blue, McKeirnan told reporters.

"We had to adjust our planning, but they were [threats] that were built-in," he said.

However, the pockets of resistance seem to be diminishing as the United States and other nations move forward in a "blurred transition between combat operations and post-hostility operations," to begin rebuilding the nation, to include restoring power, water and letting businesses reopen, he said.

And mounting anti-American sentiments expressed by some Iraqis, and from Iranian Shiites moving into Iraq to protest the U.S. military presence, for now don't seem to pose a danger to military personnel, he said.

"Right now, the Shiite and any Iranian-influenced Shiite actions are not an overt threat to coalition forces," McKeirnan said, adding military leaders constantly monitor and assess the situation.

McKeirnan said 11 other nations were providing ground forces, while Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on Monday said during a press briefing that 20 countries "have forces on the ground in Iraq or are providing support functions in the theater."

The United States has roughly 132,000 troops in country, augmented

by another 20,000 from other nations, primarily Great Britain and Australian, which have aided in the U.S.-led combat operations from the beginning of the ground war 36 days ago, McKeirnan said.

Some new countries offering ground aid include the Czech Republic, which has provided medical units; Italy, which offered 3,000 Carabinieri (a specialized police force) for security duties; Albania, which provided military forces for stability operations; and Lithuania, which provided cargo handlers to deliver humanitarian aid, Rumsfeld said.

McKeirnan said his forces will work hand-in-hand with Jay Garner, the retired Army general picked by the administration to lead the reconstruction efforts in Iraq. And while Marines have been steadily pulling out of Baghdad in recent days, McKeirnan gave no idea when U.S. forces might leave Iraq.

"We'll leave when the mission is complete, and I won't be the one deciding when the mission is complete," he said.

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Baghdad 'rulers' vow huge raise in pay

BY NIKO PRICE
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Baghdad's self-proclaimed rulers said Wednesday they will use Iraqi government funds to pay all state employees their salaries this month — with a 1,000-percent raise — and took credit for advances in getting power, water and hospitals back up and running.

They also claimed that the U.S. Army recognizes their authority, meets with them daily and even drove them from Kuwait to Baghdad on American military vehicles. The United States said it doesn't know who they are.

Amid the power vacuum left by three decades of one-man dictatorship, it remained unclear who was running Iraq, or if anyone was at all. Jay Garner, a retired U.S. general, is charged with restoring services in Iraq while an interim government is formed.

But Mohammed Mohsen al-Zubaidi, an Iraqi exile, seemed to be getting ahead of those plans, consolidating his claim to Baghdad's governorship — and over the entire country, taking funds from national government coffers for his own embryonic administration.

At a town-hall style meeting Wednesday, al-Zubaidi promised government

employees that they would be paid on April 30, and that their salaries would be increased ten-fold. He said the funds would come from a Finance Ministry account at the Iraqi National Bank.

"We ordered the finance committee to raise wages after hearing about the reserves we have," he told an assembled crowd in an auditorium of the Sheraton Hotel. "We are raising salaries 10 times, both civilian and military."

Al-Zubaidi proclaimed that "the era of Saddam Hussein is over" and told Iraqis that their former government had abused them.

Al-Zubaidi's political connections remain murky. Originally described as a top aide to Iraqi National Congress leader Ahmad Chalabi, al-Zubaidi now denies any connection to the INC chief.

Chalabi, who has set up offices at a Baghdad hunting club, is unpopular in Baghdad. A former banker and financier, he was convicted in 1992 by a Jordanian court of embezzlement, fraud and breach of trust in absentia after a bank he ran collapsed with \$300 million in missing deposits. Chalabi left the country before he was charged.

In an interview with The Associated Press, al-Zubaidi's top deputy, Gen. Jawdat al-Obeidi, said the general manager of the Iraqi National Bank — as well as directors of other banks —

were giving the self-proclaimed Baghdad government funds deposited in their institutions.

"We don't have any legal government. It's just a local committee," he said.

Al-Obeidi, a former Iraqi army general who for the last four years has run a limousine company in Portland, Oregon, said it wasn't only the banks that recognize his government, but the U.S. military as well.

"We are working as a team with the Americans. We have a meeting with them every day," he said.

He said his team met with U.S. Army civil affairs officers as well as military commanders, and that the meetings were held without news media present at U.S. insistence.

The U.S. government has consistently denied having any dealings with al-Zubaidi or his administration.

Barbara Bodine, the U.S. coordinator for central Iraq, said Monday: "We don't really know much about him except that he's declared himself mayor. We don't recognize him."

Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks, deputy operations director for the U.S. Central Command in Qatar, said last week that al-Zubaidi was "an emerging leader and deserves some attention." But he said that "until full processes are in place ... that is not a recognized mayor of Baghdad."

Navy Seabees loot Iraqi military posts for needy civilians

BY DANI DODGE

Ventura County (Calif.) Star

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Seabees went on a looting spree of their own this week, grabbing 67 chairs and 5,610 pounds of beans, rice and flour from abandoned Iraqi military storage sheds, kitchens and classrooms.

The battalion's chaplain even crawled through the broken window of a rancid-smelling office to take 13 desks.

But he and other Seabees from the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4 won't keep the food and furniture for themselves. Instead, they will give the items to needy children and schools in small towns south of Baghdad.

"We're like Robin Hood," said Chap-

lain Brandon Harding, 32, of Point Mugu, Calif. "I hope it will foster good will between us and the Iraqis, and they will trust us so we can do more good things for them."

While the war was in combat mode, the Seabees concentrated on building roads and bridges to speed supplies to the front line troops.

Now that the combat phase of the war is winding down and humanitarian efforts are gearing up, the Seabees are doing what they can to help Iraqis.

They are building the first major humanitarian project of Operation Iraqi Freedom: a bridge over the Diyala River into Baghdad that Iraqi forces detonated. While building the bridge, they are camped at an Iraqi military complex where buildings are still full of food, clothing and furniture left be-

hind by the Republican Guard and the Iraqi Air Force.

About a dozen Seabees combed the buildings for three truckloads of items that could help children.

But the battalion's corpsmen weren't so lucky when they went to get medicine to give to civilians in the small towns. The corpsmen are not allowed to use their own medical supplies for civilians. Yet every day on a construction job, sick children and adults come to them asking for medical care.

Lt. Paolo Hernandez, 29, of Valencia, Calif., the battalion doctor, hoped a trip to an abandoned Iraqi military pharmacy would save a few of them. But when they arrived at the abandoned Iraqi Air Force Hospital, the Seabees encountered a locked door and Army officers.

"We're occupying the hospital," said Capt. Darren Hightower of the 3rd In-

fantry Division, standing with his arms crossed in the pharmacy doorway. "All this is being turned over to local doctors and hospitals."

Hernandez pleaded with him.

"People come to us who are sick and need help," he said. "We just want essential medication for those people who come to us. My only hope was this medication."

Hightower stood firm. "I understand you guys are doing the right thing," he said, "but we're not supposed to release it to anyone."

Hernandez and his corpsmen were forced to drive away empty-handed. "I'm so frustrated," he said. "We were going to give it directly to the people."

Hernandez said he would approach the Army officer again, adding, "I'm hoping they are feeling a little guilty."

1st military SARS cases

BY LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The first two cases of severe acute respiratory syndrome in the military community have been confirmed at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, Air Force officials said Wednesday.

Two retired Air Force members, including one who works as a contractor for the 75th Medical Group at Hill, came down with the potentially deadly, pneumonia-like illness while traveling in Asia, according to Airman 1st Class Micah Garbarino, a spokesman for the base.

Officials at the Centers for Disease Control confirmed the cases Monday, after lab tests were sent to the CDC by one of the patient's physicians, Maj. Melinda Screws, and by the Davis County Health Department, which treated the other patient.

One of the patients, the contractor, was treated at Hill Air Force Base clinic, according to the commander of the 75th Medical Group, Col. Dr. Charles Williams.

The second patient was handled through Davis County Health Department.

Both patients "are fully recovered and back at work," Garbarino said.

The patients were not quarantined, because they suffered the infectious phase of the illness overseas, Garbarino said.

"There are no new incidents, and nobody's gotten [SARS] as a result of contact with the infected patients," Garbarino said.

After the first cases of SARS were identified in March, health organizations worldwide quickly banded together to study the origins and isolate possible victims. But SARS has been slowly gathering steam, and as of Wednesday, almost 4,000 people in 27 countries had been diagnosed with the illness, and 229 have died, according to the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Ga.

No deaths have been reported in the United States, where the CDC is monitoring more than 230 potential cases.

Even as the Hill cases were being confirmed, Defense Department officials were touting the fact that the U.S. military had not been affected by SARS, although they had issued an advisory recommending

Q: What can I do to protect my family and myself?

A: There are several measures you can take, including:

- Wash your hands often
- Try to avoid touching your face, which moves infectious particles on your hands to your mouth and nose
- Cover your mouth and nose if you cough or sneeze
- Don't spend a lot of time around people who are sick

Q: What is the Defense Department doing about SARS?

A: DOD officials have issued a forcewide advisory recommending that military members and civilians take precautions against SARS. Officials in Pacific Command, where the virus has been most active, are allowing DOD personnel to make only mission-essential trips to China and Hong Kong.

For more information on SARS, go to www.cdc.gov or see the Pentagon's Health Affairs extended message at www.ha.osd.mil/asd/message.html

that military members and civilians take precautions against SARS.

In a prepared statement that was updated Monday, Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., DOD's Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, said that "So far, while we have had no confirmed cases in the military health system, we are actively involved in monitoring this outbreak, and supporting both international and U.S. health authorities as needed."

Pacific Command, which includes the area where the virus has been most active, also is forbidding DOD personnel from making any but mission-essential trips to China and Hong Kong because of the disease's threat.

Worldwide, CDC officials are advising against unnecessary trips to parts of Toronto, China, Hong Kong, Singapore and Hanoi. Passengers flying into U.S. airports from East Asia are receiving SARS information cards from health officials that list SARS symptoms and ask that people see their doctors if they feel ill.

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Nuke production restarts in U.S.

Los Angeles Times

The United States has regained the capability to make nuclear weapons for the first time in 14 years and has restarted production of plutonium parts for bombs, the Energy Department said Tuesday.

The announcement marks an important symbolic and operational milestone in rebuilding the nation's nuclear weapons complex, which began a long re-trenchment in the late 1980s as the Cold War ended and the toll of environmental damage from bomb production became known.

"Since 1989 until today, we were the only nuclear power in the world that could not make a pit," said Linton Brooks, administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration, the Energy Department agency that runs the weapons production complex.

A pit is a hollow sphere made of plutonium, surrounded by conventional explosives that detonate and start fission as the sphere implodes.

Under a Bush administration plan, the Energy Department will begin limited production of plutonium parts for the existing stockpile of nuclear weapons and begin laying plans for a new factory that could produce parts for hundreds of weapons each year.

The last time the United States made a plutonium pit was at the Energy Department's Rocky Flats site in Colorado, which was shut down after serious environmental laws were broken and the FBI raided the plant.

Weapons scientists at Los Alamos National Laboratory said Tuesday that they had built a plutonium pit for a W-88 warhead for a Trident nuclear missile. The production took eight years and ultimately will cost \$1.5 billion when the pit is fully certified by the Energy Department in 2007, Los Alamos officials said.

"It is a sign that after a long period of decline, the weapons complex is back and growing," said Jon Wolfsthal, deputy director of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and a former Energy Department weapons expert. "To the average U.S. citizen, it would be accurate to say we have restarted the production of nuclear weapons."

Energy Department officials vehemently denied that they are actually producing nuclear weapons and said they need the capability of producing plutonium parts to ensure the reliability of the existing stockpile of U.S. weapons, which is aging and may need new components.

Critics question whether the Bush administration is going overboard in its investments into the nuclear weapons complex. Thomas Cochran, a scientist at the Natural Resources Defense Council, said the government is now spending about \$6 billion annually on the nuclear weapons complex, 50 percent more than it did during the Cold War.

Fedayeen shows ruthless acts of violence

BY PETER BAKER

The Washington Post

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Ali fell to his knees and said this is how it was done: He put his hands behind his back to simulate being bound, then leaned his head back and closed his eyes as if blindfolded. A friend stepped behind him to hold his head, taking on the role of one of the enforcers. Then another would force open the victim's mouth, Ali said, and a third would yank the tongue out with pliers and slice it off with a surgical knife or an army blade.

Tales of such abuse have flowed out of Iraq in the two weeks since Saddam Hussein was toppled. But Ali was not one of those who had his tongue cut. He was, he said, one of those who did the cutting.

Ali belonged to Saddam's Fedayeen, a security force led by Saddam's elder son, Qadai. For the better part of a decade, he recalled, he assassinated opposition figures, broke the backs of those accused of lying to the government and chopped off tongues, fingers, hands and once even a head.

"It didn't matter if we felt he was guilty or not guilty. We had to do it," he explained. "These people were against Saddam Hussein. If we got orders to punish him, we would go and do it. If Qadai said to cut off his tongue, we would do it. Or his hands or fingers or his head. Anything. We would do it."

"I just followed orders," he said.

Met through an intermediary, Ali seemed nervous telling his tale around other Iraqis and wouldn't give his last name. Yet he displayed little anxiety about cruising around a city occupied by U.S. tanks.

What Ali offered Qadai Hussein, evidently, were the qualities most in demand in the Fedayeen: loyalty and a willingness to do what it took. He was a teenage student when recruiters came by in 1994. Fed up with school, he decided to apply.

"I went to the Fedayeen group because I didn't want to study anymore," he said. "I hated studying and I wanted to be in the army." But the army paid poorly and the prestige of working in a unit commanded by Qadai was alluring. "The Fedayeen was special and I knew that Qadai took care of them very well, not like the army."

Ali said he took 32 courses, some of them lasting a month or two, others a year or two, as he learned everything from weaponry and martial arts to language and swimming. The Fedayeen used a training base in Quarea on the northern edge of Baghdad, he said, a fact confirmed by U.S. military officials who have seized the site.

By 1996, Ali said, he was chosen to join an elite 18-member squad within the Fedayeen called the Staff, which effectively served as special forces. At the end, he was being paid 150,000 Iraqi dinars a month, or roughly \$70, a decent salary in Iraq, plus bonuses for assignments ranging from hundreds of thousands of dinars to 3 or 4 million, depending on the mission.

Life as a member of the Fedayeen made him a special man in Baghdad; his badge opened virtually any door. "They respected me so much," Ali said. "Every place I wanted to go into I could with my badge. Any place of Qadai's or Saddam's I could go because I had my badge."

When Qadai wanted someone killed, Ali said he and his team would be given about 10 photographs of the target — with and without a mustache, or with different clothes and hairstyles. They would be given information about his whereabouts, but would not be told his name. The operation would be photographed or videotaped to prove it had been completed; Qadai had a library of such videotapes, according to Ali.

He recalled one assassination five or six years ago in Karbala, a holy Shiite city about 60 miles southwest of Baghdad. The order was to kill a Shiite leader.

"I went to kill one person, but suddenly I saw he had guards with him, so I killed four or five of his guards," Ali recalled. "After that, we cut off his head and we put it in a bag and we brought it to Baghdad from Karbala at 4 a.m. We put it in front of Qadai's office. He asked us to bring his head."

Before the war started, Ali said, he was part of a team that infiltrated Kuwait to monitor U.S. troops. Once the fighting started, he roamed through the south, mostly taking reconnaissance photographs.

One day as the Americans got closer, Qadai stopped by their position and ordered them not to let the enemy get into Baghdad, then sped away. That was the last time Ali saw him. It didn't take long to see that the situation was hopeless, and their command ultimately sent the militia home.

Shuttle accident probe continues

HOUSTON — After nearly three months, investigators examining the Columbia accident have mounting evidence that a 2-pound chunk of insulating foam caused the tragedy.

Evidence continues to point to the chunk of foam from the shuttle's external fuel tank. The theory is that the foam ripped away during the shuttle's Jan. 16 launch and hit a seal on the left wing.

That would have created a slit large enough to let in hot atmospheric gases as the spacecraft re-entered the atmosphere on its return home two weeks later.

Columbia broke apart over Texas on Feb. 1 as it aimed for a Florida landing. All seven astronauts aboard were killed.

On Tuesday, board members said tests show that a mystery object that floated away from the shuttle while in orbit was likely a so-called T-seal. It's still unclear whether all or part of it drifted off.

The seals are made of reinforced carbon composite and fit between pairs of panels made of the same material that are designed to withstand temperatures of up to 3,000 degrees during re-entry.

Nightclub fire benefit

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Survivors of a deadly nightclub fire two months ago reunited at another Rhode Island rock concert Tuesday, not only to listen to music, but to remember and to heal.

The concert was to raise money for families of victims and survivors of the Feb. 20 West Warwick fire, which was touched off by pyrotechnics moments after the hard-rock band Great White kicked off its show.

Ninety-nine people were killed and nearly 200 were injured in The Station nightclub.

Among others scheduled to perform were heavy metal band Blue Oyster Cult; the Southern Rock All-Stars (former members of Molly Hatchet, Blackfoot and the Rossington Band); Rick Derringer and Phoebe Snow.

From wire reports

OLYMPICS

SALT LAKE CITY — A federal appeals court reinstated a bribery case against two men accused of using \$1 million in enticements to sway International Olympic Committee delegates to award Salt Lake the 2002 Winter Games.

The 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver overturned a federal judge in Utah who threw out the case in a series of rulings and opinions in 2001. The three-judge appeals panel unanimously reinstated all 15 felony charges against the two men, clearing the way for a trial.

The Justice Department "has an undeniable interest in denouncing corruption in the selection process for the host city of the Olympic Games," the 56-page ruling said.

Tom Welch, 58, who was president of the city's bid and organizing committees, and Dave Johnson, 44, who was senior vice president, were accused of lavishing \$1 million in cash, gifts and favors on Olympic delegates.

HAVANA — Cuba will bid for the 2012 Olympics, a decision that will place Havana as the long-shot candidate in a strong field that already features New York and Madrid, Spain.

Committee president Jose Ramon Fernandez said this month the formal request to hold the 2012 Summer Games in Havana would be submitted in May.

Fernandez said at the time that Cuba was capable of guaranteeing the success of the Olympics, and they would be "organized so that the athletes rather than the sponsors are given priority."

Sports in brief

TRACK & FIELD

LOS ANGELES — Carl Lewis dismissed a demand by the manager of former Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson to give back his 1988 Olympic gold medal in the 100 meters, saying it was unrealistic.

Johnson's manager and attorney, Morris Chrobotek, told the Sydney Morning Herald last week that he plans legal action in response to documents purporting to show that Lewis and other U.S. athletes were allowed to compete at the 1988 Seoul Olympics after failing drug tests.

Lewis was declared the winner in the 100 meters when Johnson was stripped of his gold medal and world record after testing positive for a banned steroid. Lewis also won the long jump and finished his career with nine Olympic golds.

BASKETBALL

NEW YORK — Lawyers for the WNBA and its players' union met to put the finishing touches on a new collective bargaining agreement.

The two sides reached an agreement in principle last Friday, the union said, beating a deadline imposed by NBA Commissioner David Stern for the women's league to play a seventh season.

Since then, the sides have exchanged documents and worked on contract language. They hoped to have the deal completed by, but the union said that would not happen.

NEW YORK — Antonio McDyess had

surgery on the broken left kneecap that sidelined him for all of his first season with the New York Knicks.

The 6-foot-9 forward had a bone graft at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

The Knicks obtained McDyess in a draft-day trade with the Denver Nuggets after he missed all but 10 games of the 2001-02 season with a different left knee injury.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

MILWAUKEE — Tom Crean signed a new contract to remain coach at Marquette, ending speculation that he was a leading contender to take the Illinois job.

Crean, who led Marquette to its first Final Four appearance in 26 years, said that he'd signed a new deal. Terms were not disclosed.

The 37-year-old coach was among the first names mentioned for the Illinois position when Bill Self was introduced as the new Kansas coach on Monday.

BASEBALL

OAKLAND, Calif. — A man pleaded innocent to misdemeanor charges of battery and assault with a deadly weapon for allegedly beating Texas Rangers right fielder Carl Everett with a cell phone.

Juan Carlos Serrano, 24, of Union City, did not appear at his arraignment in Alameda County Court. His lawyer, Andrew Dosa, entered the plea on Serrano's behalf.

NEW YORK — New York Mets right fielder Jeremy Burnitz will miss four-to-six weeks after breaking a bone in his left hand when he was hit by a pitch from Houston closer Billy Wagner.

David Cone left the New York Mets' 6-2 loss to Houston with a sore left hip that has been bothering him for years. Cone said he has been diagnosed with chronic bursitis in his hip, but X-rays have shown no damage. He expects to have an MRI on Wednesday.

CHICAGO — San Diego Padres right-hander Brian Lawrence tied a major league record by hitting three batters in the fourth inning.

With Alex Gonzalez on first and no outs in the fourth, Lawrence hit Sammy Sosa on the backside. It was a scary sight, coming just two days after Sosa was beamed in the head by a fastball in Pittsburgh.

GLENDAL, Calif. — Dodgers relief pitcher Guillermo Mota was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol, the California Highway Patrol said.

Mota declined to discuss the arrest in Cincinnati, where the Dodgers are playing the Reds.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

ATHENS, Ga. — Five University of Georgia football players were suspended for two games after they and a basketball player were charged with misdemeanor drug possession.

Football players Tim Jennings, Bryan McClendon, DeMario Minter, Mario Raley and Randall Swoopes, and basketball player Wayne Arnold — all freshmen — were booked and later released from the Clarke County jail.

From The Associated Press

Ex-Beatle: Ban the bomblets

Paul McCartney is calling for a ban on cluster bombs because of the harm they cause to civilians.

"It would be great to outlaw these cowardly weapons," the former Beatle told British Broadcasting Corp. radio on Monday.

"What happens after the war finishes is that it's the civilians — mainly women and children — who get blown up."

Cluster munitions dropped by U.S. and British aircraft in Iraq contain hundreds of small "bomblets" that sometimes fail to explode until years later. Anti-landmine campaigners, including McCartney's wife, Heather Mills, say children are particularly at risk because they can mistake the bomblets for toys.

McCartney's call for the ban came as he and other stars released an album to raise money for Iraqi children affected by the war.

David Bowie, George Michael, Moby and former pop

Faces 'n' places

star Cat Stevens were among the other artists performing on the album "Hope," which was released Monday.

Friends' get comfy for charity

The characters on NBC's "Friends" love their recliners — and now, the actors who play them have designed their own chairs for charity.

Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, Lisa Kudrow, Matt LeBlanc, Matthew Perry and David Schwimmer created recliners for La-Z-Boy, which will be auctioned off on eBay to benefit the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation.

Schwimmer's looks like a beach ball made of multi-colored leather. Perry's is covered in blue velvet, with

a swivel tray, a cup holder and storage for a remote control.

Cox's recliner, in black leather with bentwood sides, was inspired by the famous Eames lounge. Kudrow's is covered in brown leather and has a cream-colored argyle pattern.

The chairs will be auctioned online from May 12-22.

Dangerfield's brain gets respect

Comedian Rodney Dangerfield was released from the University of California, Los Angeles, Medical Center on Monday, nearly two weeks after undergoing brain surgery to increase his blood flow for another upcoming operation.

The 81-year-old comic planned to continue his recovery at home in preparation for heart valve replacement surgery in nearly two months, according to his spokesman, Kevin Sasaki.

From wire reports

Cyclone kills at least 36 in India

GAUHATI, India — A cyclone battered India's remote northeastern Assam state, killing at least 36 people and injuring 1,500, police said Wednesday.

The storm hit villages near Kala Pani in the Dhubri district, uprooting trees and flattening houses Tuesday evening, but news of the deaths reached officials more than 10 hours later, said Nitul Gogoi, a superintendent of police.

Arafat approves Palestinian Cabinet

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Prime Minister-designate Mahmoud Abbas presented a new Cabinet to Yasser Arafat, ending a dayslong standoff with the Palestinian leader over its composition, officials said Wednesday, and keeping a U.S.-backed peace plan on track.

Palestinian Parliament Speaker Ahmed Qureia said he was informed by Abbas and Arafat that the new Cabinet was formed, just hours before a midnight deadline. The list of ministers is ready for presentation to the parliament.

"We were asked to call for a special session of the Palestinian legislature to vote confidence in the new government," Qureia told The Associated Press. "I will call for a session ... within a week."

The agreement was essential for keeping alive a U.S.-backed peace plan for full Palestinian statehood within three years.

President Bush has said he will present that plan only after an empowered Palestinian prime minister is installed.

Earlier Wednesday, Egyptian intelligence chief Omar Suleiman pressed Abbas and Arafat to end their standoff.

Suleiman presented a compromise proposal to Arafat in an hour-long meeting at the Palestinian lead-

er's West Bank headquarters, an official close to the talks said. He then visited Abbas' nearby home and went back to see Arafat again.

Suleiman then accompanied Abbas on a visit to Arafat's headquarters.

The outlines of the Egyptian-brokered deal were not immediately known. Palestinian regulations set a Wednesday midnight deadline for an agreement.

2 mass graves found in Bosnia

SARAJEVO, Bosnia and Herzegovina — Forensic experts have found two mass graves that may contain dozens of bodies of Muslims killed in the beginning of Bosnia's 1992-95 war, an official said Wednesday.

Murat Hurtic, a member of the Muslim Commission for Missing Persons, said experts had exhumed four bodies on Tuesday and expected to exhume another 11 on Wednesday.

The bodies were found near Vlasenica, a town in the Serb part of the country located about 40 miles northeast of the capital, Sarajevo.

Victim tracks down suspect on Net

VIENNA, Austria — A rape suspect has been arrested in Germany after his victim searched the Internet to track him down, Austrian media reported Wednesday.

The suspect, identified only as R.K., was arrested Tuesday in Sauerland, central Germany, the Austrian newspaper Kleine Zeitung reported.

The suspect has been convicted of raping the victim, then 12, when he was a hotel director in the village Heiligenblut, located in the Austrian Alps. He went underground after demanding a new trial. Authorities issued an international arrest warrant in Oc-

tober 2002, the paper reported. No other details were available.

The victim, now 19, on Monday typed the man's name into an Internet search engine and found him listed as a director of a German hotel. She contacted Austrian police, who contacted their German colleagues, who in turn arrested the man.

But Hermann Klammer, a regional police chief in the southern Carinthia province, on Wednesday told Austrian state broadcaster ORF that Austrian officials had told their German counterparts about the man's suspected whereabouts last month.

Global road rage

BRUSSELS, Belgium — An Australian may give you the finger. An Argentine may scold you. Germans tailgate. In many varied ways, aggressive driving is a growing worldwide problem, says a new survey.

Worst off are drivers in Austria, France, the United States, Russia and Belgium, where around two-thirds say they have been victims of aggressive driving in the past year, according to the EOS-Gallup Europe survey commissioned by Responsible Young Drivers, a Belgian safe traffic group. The average for the 15-nation European Union is 48 percent, according to the report issued last week.

Aggressive driving bothers only 23 percent of Swedish drivers followed by those in Italy (27 percent), Finland (32 percent) and Spain (33 percent), said the survey. Rude driving is exhibited in different ways depending where you are. In Japan and Germany, rude drivers love to tailgate and nothing works better in Argentina than verbal abuse.

The survey queried almost 14,000 car drivers in face-to-face and phone polls in 23 nations in Europe, the United States, Japan, Australia and Argentina. It gave no margin of error.

From wire reports

With top pick, Cincinnati fights history, indecision

BY DAVE GOLDBERG

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Nothing goes right for the Cincinnati Bengals, even when they own the No. 1 choice in the NFL Draft.

Yes, the Bengals will have the first pick Saturday. And they don't really want it.

Cincinnati has talked to the agent for Southern California's Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Carson Palmer and the agents for Marshall QB Byron Leftwich and Kansas State cornerback Terence Newman. Typically, money already is an issue — Palmer wants far more than Bengals President Mike Brown is willing to pay.

New coach Marvin Lewis would prefer a defensive player. He can always snare a quarterback to develop like Chris Simms or Dave Ragone in the second round while Jon Kitna tries to help the Bengals approach 500.

They already have been burned with a high-pick QB — Akili Smith, third overall in 1999. Even Smith acknowledges that.

"It's been the worst script in the history of quarterbacks," he says.

Lewis, who made his reputation as a defensive coordinator, prefers Newman. He could get the cornerback or defensive tackle Dewayne Robertson of Kentucky if Cincinnati trades down.

The guess here is the Bengals stay put and take CARSON PALMER, QB, Southern California.

2. DETROIT. Nothing goes right for the Lions, either. They want CHARLES

ROGERS, WR, Michigan State, although there are questions about a drug test he took during the scouting combine.

3. HOUSTON. The Texans decide not to trade up for Rogers and take ANDRE JOHNSON, WR, Miami, giving David Carr, last year's No. 1, a target.

4. CHICAGO. Kordell Stewart is a decent stopgap at QB and the Bears might get Chris Simms in the second round. DEWAYNE ROBERTSON, DT, Kentucky, fills an urgent need.

5. DALLAS. Bill Parcells loves Lawrence Taylor clones. But Terrell Suggs' disappointing times in the 40-yard dash mean Parcells instead will go with TERENCE NEWMAN, CB, Kansas State, an instant stopper at a position that killed the Cowboys last season.

6. ARIZONA. The Cardinals got Emmitt Smith to sell tickets. They'll try to sell more with a local, TERRELL SUGGS, DE, Arizona State, whose 4.85 40-yard dash times don't wipe away his 24 sacks last season.

7. MINNESOTA. The Vikings would love to take Suggs, Robertson or Newman. They "settle" for JIMMY KENNEDY, DT, Penn State, whose only problem is a tendency to eat too much.

8. JACKSONVILLE. Mark Brunell can't go on forever. BYRON LEFTWICH, QB, Marshall.

9. CAROLINA. Coach John Fox likes big guys like JORDAN GROSS, OT, Utah.

10. BALTIMORE. Brian Billick won a Super Bowl with Trent Dilfer. KYLE BOLLER, QB, Cal, has been moving up the draft board.

11. SEATTLE. The Seahawks were the

worst team in the NFL against the run last season. KEVIN WILLIAMS, DT, Oklahoma State.

12. ST. LOUIS. The Rams still need defense. With Aeneas Williams a major question mark and Dre' Bly gone, they take MARCUS TRUFANT, CB, Washington State.

13. NEW YORK JETS. The Jets' linebackers are aging and slow. BOSS BAILEY, LB, Georgia, is neither.

14. NEW ENGLAND. Bill Belichick has added defense through free agency and gets more: JOHNATHAN SULLIVAN, DT, Georgia, to play next to former college teammate Richard Seymour.

15. SAN DIEGO. The run on defensive linemen continues with WILLIAM JOSEPH, DT, Miami.

16. KANSAS CITY. The offseason has been devoted to improving defense. ANDRE WOOLFOLK, CB, Oklahoma, is the latest addition.

17. 18. NEW ORLEANS. Another couple of picks to package and move up. Or the Saints will take TROY POLAMALU, S, Southern California, and JEROME McDUGGLE, DE, Miami.

19. NEW ENGLAND. More defense: E.J. HENDERSON, LB, Maryland.

20. DENVER. Mike Shanahan usually gets offensive linemen lower. But KWAME HARRIS, OT, Stanford, fits here.

21. CLEVELAND. The Browns have done nothing about their OL since they returned to the NFL in 1999. ERIC STEINBACH, G, Iowa.

22. NEW YORK JETS. They signed Curtis Conway to replace Laveranues Coles, but TAYLOR JACOBS, WR, Florida is the long-term solution.

23. BUFFALO. The Bills gave up their first pick for Drew Bledsoe, then got this one for Peerless Price. KENNY PETERSON, DT, Ohio State, helps the defensive rebuilding.

24. INDIANAPOLIS. Another defensive unit that needs help. MIKE DOSS, S, Ohio State.

25. NEW YORK GIANTS. GM Ernie Accorsi has moved up in the first round the past two years and it could happen again. MICHAEL HAYNES, DE, Penn State provides much-needed DL depth.

26. SAN FRANCISCO. Defensive line needs rebuilding. But there are DLs lower, and BRYANT JOHNSON, WR, Penn State is needed to complement Terrell Owens.

27. PITTSBURGH. Tommy Maddox is fine for now, but the Steelers' future is REX GROSSMAN, QB, Florida.

28. TENNESSEE. Eddie George won't go on forever. LARRY JOHNSON, RB, Penn State, the first running back in a draft that lacks quality at the position.

29. GREEN BAY. Assuming Grossman's gone, they'll look lower for Brett Favre's eventual successor, perhaps even home-state hero Brooks Bollinger. Defense here: TY WARREN, DT, Texas A&M.

30. PHILADELPHIA. A pass rusher to replace Hugh Douglas. CHRIS KELSAY, DE, Nebraska.

31, 32. OAKLAND. Jerry Rice and Tim Brown are nearing the end of superb careers. KELLEY WASHINGTON, WR, Tennessee, and a classic Raiders pick: WILLIS MCGAHEE, RB, Miami, who would have been in the top five if he hadn't torn up his knee in the national title game.

Yankees 8, Angels 3

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Jeff Weaver helped New York celebrate the 100th anniversary of its first game by pitching the Yankees to an 8-3 victory over World Series champion Anaheim, the team that knocked them out of last year's playoffs.

Jorge Posada hit his sixth homer of the season, and New York's rotation improved to 15-0, the best beginning for starting pitchers ever by a major league team. Weaver (2-0) gave up three runs and nine hits in 6 2/3 innings.

After winning four straight American League pennants, and World Series titles from 1998 to 2000, the Yankees were eliminated 3-1 by Anaheim in the best-of-five first round.

John Lackey (1-2), who went on to beat San Francisco in Game 7 of the World Series, gave up seven runs — six earned — and five hits in three-plus innings.

Pirates 5, Giants 2

PITTSBURGH — Jeff Suppan won his fourth straight start and Jesse Foppert was roughed up in his first start for San Francisco, as Pittsburgh turning a five-run first inning into a victory over the Giants.

The Giants (15-4), shorthanded with star Barry Bonds out with a sore neck, lost consecutive games for the first time this season.

Suppan (4-0), who has a 1.37 ERA, gave up one run and five hits over eight innings.

Pokey Reese and Jack Wilson hit two-run singles in the first inning off Foppert (0-1), a converted first baseman considered the Giants' top pitching prospect.

Expos 4, Diamondbacks 0

MONTREAL — Puerto Ricans Wil Cordero and Jose Vidro homered to back the pitching of Japan's Tomo Ohka (2-2) as Montreal beat Arizona 4-0 in their Canadian opener Tuesday.

The Expos' first 10 "home games" were moved to San Juan, Puerto Rico,

Posada hit a two-run homer, and Bernie Williams and Jason Giambi each had two hits and two RBIs.

Yankees starters have won 19 consecutive regular-season decisions dating to last year, breaking the previous AL record of 18 set by the 1906 Chicago White Sox. The major league record since 1900 is 23, set by the 1916 New York Giants.

Royals 4, Twins 3

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Joe Randa hit a three-run homer and Runelvys Hernandez overcame wildness to win his fourth straight decision as Kansas City beat Minnesota for its 15th victory in 18 games.

Randa broke a scoreless tie with the third-inning homer off Kenny Rogers (2-1).

American League

Hernandez (4-0) of the Dominican Republic gave up one run and three hits in 6 2/3 innings and walked a career-high six. Mike MacDougal pitched the ninth for his major league-leading eighth save, completing a four-hitter.

Minnesota has lost five successive games. Kansas City, which has won four straight, is off to the best start in the history of the franchise, which started play in 1969.

Red Sox 5, Rangers 4

ARLINGTON, Texas — Pedro Martinez (2-1) allowed just an unearned run and three hits in seven innings, overcoming six walks, one short of his career high as Boston beat Texas.

Manny Ramirez homered and had three hits for the Red Sox (14-6), who won for the eighth time in 10 games.

National League

by the commissioner's office to raise revenue, and Montreal will return to the island in June and September for a pair of six-game homestands.

After the Expos won six games in the Caribbean, Montreal was welcomed by a crowd of 36,879, the largest Olympic Stadium crowd since 45,183 came to the 2001 home opener.

Montreal, owned by the other 29 teams, has been an early season surprise with a 12-8 record that tops the National East. The Expos lead the majors with four shutouts, one more than their total last year.

Arizona's Andrew Good (0-1) made his first big league start after Randy Johnson was put on the disabled list Monday with a strained right knee.

Dodgers 2, Reds 1

CINCINNATI — Brian Jordan's run-scoring single in the eighth inning gave Los Angeles a victory over Cincinnati in the first low-scoring game at Great American Ball Park.

Venezuela's Cesar Izturis tied it with a two-out RBI single in the seventh, and Jordan decided it with another two-out single in the eighth off Paul Wilson (0-2), who lasted 7 2/3 innings.

Paul Shuey (2-1) got the victory in relief of Japanese pitcher Kazuhisa Ishii, who struck out seven and gave up one run in six innings. Eric Gagne struck out three in a hitless ninth for his fifth save in as many chances.

Astros 6, Mets 2

NEW YORK — Tim Lincecum allowed one run in six innings to win for the first time in nearly 11 months, and Richard Hidalgo homered to help slumping Houston beat New York.

Jeff Kent and Orlando Merced hit RBI doubles in the first inning against David Cone (1-3) as the Astros got off to a quick start and won for just the third time in 10 games.

Cone had a short night, leaving after the second inning with a sore left hip.

Chad Fox got five outs for his second save, retiring Alex Rodriguez and Palmeiro with a runner on base end it.

South Korea's Chan Ho Park (1-3) allowed four runs and eight hits in seven innings.

White Sox 3, Orioles 1

BALTIMORE — Esteban Loaiza (4-0) took a three-hit shutout into the ninth inning, striking out eight batters and winning his fourth straight start as Chicago defeated Baltimore.

Loaiza was replaced after Jay Gibbons hit a one-out homer in the ninth. Billy Koch finished the four-hitter for his third save.

Sidney Ponson (1-2) gave up two runs and five hits in seven innings.

Frank Thomas homered in the first inning.

Continued on Page 8

The 40-year-old's spot in the rotation — and comeback — could be in jeopardy with Pedro Astacio expected to come off the disabled list this week.

Redding (1-2) pitched well in his first career appearance at Shea Stadium. He gave up only three hits, including an RBI double by Jeremy Burnitz in the fourth inning.

Phillies 5, Rockies 2

PHILADELPHIA — Kevin Millwood allowed one run and three hits in six innings to lead Philadelphia over Colorado after being moved a day ahead in the pitching rotation.

Brett Myers had been scheduled to start, but Phillies Manager Larry Bowa made the change to keep Millwood (3-1) on his regular pattern of four days' rest.

Jose Mesa pitched the ninth for his fourth save in five chances, completing a five-hitter.

Rockies starter Darren Oliver (0-2) allowed five runs and eight hits in four innings. Jason Michaels had three hits with two RBIs for the Phillies.

Continued on Page 8

Bucks 88, Nets 85

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Gary Payton had 22 points, Sam Cassell added 21 as Milwaukee overcame three missed free throws in the final 10.4 seconds and 11 botched foul shots among 20 attempts to defeat New Jersey Tuesday and even their first-round series at one game each.

Game 3 is Thursday night in Milwaukee.

Payton and everyone around him had a much better game than they did in the series opener, when the Bucks fell behind by as many as 31. After being held scoreless for the first 43 minutes of the opener, Payton connected on his first three shots.

The Bucks still couldn't stop Kenyon Martin, who had 22 points and 12 rebounds, but they prevented Jason Kidd from dominating the point guard matchup, as he did in Game 1.

Martin scored on a putback with 11.1 seconds remaining to cut the Bucks' lead to 86-85, while Jason Collins fouled Cassell before the Bucks rebounded the ball. Cassell made the

NBA playoffs

free throw, and Milwaukee retained possession.

Tim Thomas was fouled intentionally with 10.4 seconds left, but he missed both free throws. The Nets inbounded to Kidd, who dribbled right, spun left and tried an 18-footer that hit the rim and missed. Desmond Mason grabbed the rebound and was fouled, missing the first and then making the second to keep New Jersey in it.

But on the final play, Rodney Rogers tripped while running to catch Lucious Harris' inbound pass. The Bucks picked up the loose ball as the final buzzer sounded.

Timberwolves 119, Lakers 91

MINNEAPOLIS — Kevin Garnett had 35 points and 20 rebounds, and made four of his five field-goal attempts in the final period as Minnesota defeated

Los Angeles to even their first-round series at one game each.

Troy Hudson added 37 points for Minnesota, which was eliminated in the first round the past six seasons.

Game 3 is Thursday in Los Angeles.

A somber Shaquille O'Neal, who spent a day and a half in South Carolina for his grandfather's funeral, showed up about 90 minutes before tipoff and wasn't much of a factor, despite getting 27 points and 14 rebounds.

Kobe Bryant, the other half of the Lakers' dominant duo, had 27 points on 9-for-28 shooting — far below his sensational 39-point performance in Sunday's opener, when the Lakers won 117-98 to swipe home-court advantage from the Timberwolves.

Hudson's 37 points set a franchise record for a playoff game. He averaged only 14.2 points during the regular season, and his best effort was 31.

The Lakers had their most lopsided postseason loss since 2000, when the Indiana Pacers beat them 120-87 in Game 5 of the NBA Finals.

From The Associated Press

Scores/standings**NBA Playoffs****FIRST ROUND (Best-of-seven) Tuesday**

Milwaukee 88, New Jersey 85, series tied 1-1
Minnesota 119, L.A. Lakers 91, series tied 1-1

NHL Playoffs**FIRST ROUND (Best-of-seven) Tuesday**

Philadelphia 6, Toronto 1, Philadelphia wins series 4-3
Vancouver 4, St. Louis 1, Vancouver wins series 4-3
Minnesota 3, Colorado 2, OT, Minnesota wins series 4-3

American League**East Division**

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	17	3	.850	—
Boston	14	6	.700	3
Baltimore	9	10	.474	7½
Tampa Bay	7	13	.350	10
Toronto	7	14	.333	10½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Kansas City	15	3	.833	—
Chicago	12	8	.600	4
Minnesota	9	11	.450	7
Cleveland	7	13	.350	9
Detroit	1	17	.056	14

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	12	8	.600	—
Oakland	11	9	.550	1
Anaheim	9	11	.450	3
Texas	8	12	.400	4

Tuesday's games

Chicago White Sox 3, Baltimore 1
Tampa Bay 4, Toronto 3
Boston 5, Texas 4
Kansas City 4, Minnesota 3
N.Y. Yankees 8, Anaheim 3
Seattle 8, Cleveland 5
Oakland 6, Detroit 5, 11 innings

National League**East Division**

	W	L	Pct	GB
Montreal	12	8	.600	—
Atlanta	11	9	.550	1
Philadelphia	11	9	.550	1
Florida	10	11	.476	2½
New York	8	12	.400	4

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	13	7	.650	—
Houston	10	9	.526	2½
Pittsburgh	10	9	.526	2½
St. Louis	9	9	.500	3
Milwaukee	8	12	.400	5
Cincinnati	6	14	.300	7

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	15	4	.789	—
Colorado	12	8	.600	3½
Los Angeles	9	11	.450	6½
Arizona	7	13	.350	8½
San Diego	7	13	.350	8½

Tuesday's games

Montreal 4, Arizona 0
Florida 4, Milwaukee 2
Pittsburgh 5, San Francisco 2
Philadelphia 5, Colorado 2
Houston 6, N.Y. Mets 2
Los Angeles 2, Cincinnati 1
Atlanta 5, St. Louis 3
Chicago Cubs 7, San Diego 2

From The Associated Press

Wild 3, Avalanche 2 (OT)

DENVER — Andrew Brunette scored 3:25 into overtime and Manny Fernandez stopped 43 shots as Minnesota beat Colorado to win its first playoff series.

The Wild took the series via a 3-1 deficit in games, winning twice in Denver. Brunette wound up with the puck after Sergei Zholtok lost it just inside Colorado's blue line. Brunette skated in, held the puck, then flipped a backhand over Patrick Roy for the winner.

Brunette threw his stick in the air and skated to the sideboards, where he was mobbed by teammates. Roy sat on his knees in the crease after the goal.

The Wild will face Vancouver in the next Western Conference series.

Colorado was knocked out in the first round for the first time since losing to Edmonton in seven games in 1998 — the last time the Avalanche lost a series after blowing a 3-1 lead.

NHL playoffs**Flyers 6, Maple Leafs 1**

PHILADELPHIA — Mark Recchi scored twice and Justin Williams had a goal and two assists Tuesday, leading Philadelphia to a series-clinching 6-1 rout of Toronto.

The Flyers, advancing to the second round for the first time in three years, will play Ottawa in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

The Senators beat the Flyers in five games in the first round last year, holding them to a record-low two goals.

The Maple Leafs had won four straight first-round series.

Simon Gagne and Keith Primeau also scored for Philadelphia, which lost in the opening round four of the past five years. It was the Flyers' first victory in a Game 7 since they beat Pittsburgh in the second round in 1989.

Gary Roberts scored Toronto's only goal.

Canucks 4, Blues 1

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Trevor Linden had a goal and an assist as Vancouver defeated St. Louis to complete its comeback from a 3-1 series deficit to advance to the second round.

Linden, held pointless through the first six games, set up Brendan Morrison's winning goal in the second period and rounded out the scoring with a short-handed goal 28 seconds into the third period.

Henrik Sedin and Markus Naslund also scored for the Canucks, who advanced to the second round for the first time in eight years.

Dan Cloutier celebrated his 27th birthday with 33 saves and his first-ever series victory.

St. Louis captain Al MacInnis was a surprise starter after being knocked out of the series in Game 2 with a shoulder injury. But his addition wasn't enough as the Blues.

From The Associated Press

American League continued**Continued from Page 7****Devil Rays 4, Blue Jays 3**

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Joe Kennedy (1-1) allowed three runs and five hits in eight innings for just the second victory by a Tampa Bay starter this season as the Devil Rays beat Toronto.

Kennedy is 5-0 against the Blue Jays.

Toby Hall hit a go-ahead single in the seventh inning for the Devil Rays, who dropped Toronto to 2-7 on a season-long, 11-game road trip.

Lance Carter pitched a hitless ninth for his second save. It was just the second victory in eight games for the Devil Rays. Jason Kershner (0-1) was the loser.

Athletics 6, Tigers 5 (11)

OAKLAND, Calif. — Miguel Tejada

homered leading off the 11th inning as Oakland sent the hapless Tigers to their 17th loss in 18 games this season.

Detroit's dismal start is the worst in baseball since Baltimore began 0-21 in 1988.

Just when it seemed all was wrong with the reigning AL MVP, Tejada changed things with one swing of the bat. He was 0-for-5 before connecting against Wilfredo Ledezma (0-1).

Tejada had stranded 10 runners and committed an error that led to an unearned run that tied the game in the ninth.

Tim Hudson took a shutout into the eighth inning before Dimitri Young hit a three-run homer. Keith Foulke couldn't hold a two-run lead in the ninth, allowing RBI singles to pinch-hitter Shane Halter and Eugene Kingsale.

Ricardo Rincon (1-1) pitched two innings for the victory.

Mariners 8, Indians 5

SEATTLE — Mike Cameron hit a grand slam off Danys Baez (0-2) in the ninth inning to cap Seattle's five-run rally over Cleveland.

The Indians scored three times in the top of the ninth to take a 5-3 lead, but Seattle fought back. Edgar Martinez hit an RBI single before Cameron connected for his fourth career slam.

Giovanni Carrara (1-0) got the victory after the Mariners' Japanese closer Kazuhiro Sasaki blew a 3-2 lead in the ninth, allowing a tying single to Ellis Burks.

Pinch-hitter Bill Selby hit a two-run single off Carrara to give Cleveland a 5-3 lead. Sasaki blew his fourth save in eight chances this season and third in five games, leaving because of tightness in his lower back.

Dan Wilson hit a three-run double for Seattle.

From The Associated Press

National League continued

retiring Eric Young on a fly ball with runners on second and third to end it. Valerio De Los Santos (0-1) took the loss.

Braves 5, Cardinals 3

ATLANTA — Gary Sheffield homered, doubled and drove in three runs to the delight of his own cheering section in right field as Atlanta beat St. Louis.

For the first time this season, eight fans in the upper deck unfurled a banner that read "Sheff's Chefs." All donned chef costumes, including the

hats, and praised Sheffield throughout the game.

As he was rounding the bases after his solo home run in the fifth, they responded with "we're not worthy" bows.

Russ Ortiz (2-2) won for the first time in three starts for the Braves (11-9), who have won seven of eight and are two games over .500 for the first time this season.

The Cardinals have lost three in a row.

John Smoltz got four outs for his seventh save in as many tries this season and 23rd in a row dating to last year.

Sheffield hit a two-run double off Garrett Stephenson (1-2) in the third.

Cubs 7, Padres 2

CHICAGO — Corey Patterson homered and had three RBIs, and Damian Miller drove in three runs with his first triple since 1998 as Chicago beat San Diego.

The Cubs have won eight of 10, while the Padres have lost five straight.

San Diego pitcher Brian Lawrence (2-2) lost control in the fourth inning, hitting Sammy Sosa, South Korea's Hee Seop Choi and Mark Bellhorn.

Carlos Zambrano (3-1) of Venezuela went six innings for the victory.

From The Associated Press

Continued from Page 7

Bobby Abreu hit a two-run double in the third and scored on a double by Pat Burrell.

Marlins 4, Brewers 2

MIAMI — Ivan Rodriguez drove in three runs, including two with a tie-breaking homer in the eighth inning, as Florida beat Milwaukee.

The Marlins' bullpen, which came in last in the NL with a 5.61 ERA, shut out the Brewers over the final two innings.

Armando Almanza (1-0) pitched the eighth and Braden Loeper worked the ninth for his third save in four chances,